Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/775,437	BUCKNOR ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dirk Wright	3681	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-14*.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *10 February 2004* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 02102004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Claims Allowed

Claims 1-14 are allowable over the prior art of record. The prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious the combination as claimed: A multi-speed transmission comprising: an input shaft; an output shaft; first, second and third planetary gear sets each having first, second and third members; said input shaft being continuously interconnected with a member of said planetary gear sets, and said output shaft being continuously interconnected with another member of said planetary gear sets; a first interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said first member of said first planetary gear set with said first member of said second planetary gear set; a second interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said second member of said first planetary gear set with said first member of said third planetary gear set; a third interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said second member of said second planetary gear set with said second member of said third planetary gear set; a first torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said first or second planetary gear set with a stationary member; a second torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said second or third planetary gear set with said stationary member; a third torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said first planetary gear set with a member of said second or third planetary gear set; a fourth torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said second planetary gear set with a member of said first or third planetary gear set; a fifth torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said third planetary gear set with a member of said first or second planetary gear set; a sixth torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said first or second planetary gear set with another member of said first, second or

third planetary gear set; a seventh torque-transmitting mechanism selectively interconnecting a member of said second or third planetary gear set with another member of said first, second or third planetary gear set; said torque-transmitting mechanisms being engaged in combinations of two to establish at least eight forward speed ratios and at least one reverse speed ratio between said input shaft and said output shaft, or a multi-speed transmission comprising: an input shaft; an output shaft; a planetary gear arrangement having first, second and third planetary gear sets, each planetary gear set having first, second and third members; said input shaft being continuously interconnected with a member of said planetary gear sets, and said output shaft being continuously interconnected with another member of said planetary gear sets; a first interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said first member of said first planetary gear set with said first member of said second planetary gear set; a second interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said second member of said first planetary gear set with said first member of said third planetary gear set; a third interconnecting member continuously interconnecting said second member of said second planetary gear set with said second member of said third planetary gear set; and seven torque-transmitting mechanisms for selectively interconnecting said members of said planetary gear sets with a stationary member or with other members of said planetary gear sets, said seven torque-transmitting mechanisms being engaged in combinations of two to establish at least eight forward speed ratios and at least one reverse speed ratio between said input shaft and said output shaft.

No particular single feature of the claim renders the claim as a whole patentable. Only the claim taken as a whole combination is deemed new and unobvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prior Art Discussed

The examiner has considered the references cited by applicant in his Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with the application. Hayabuchi '287 appears to be the most relevant. Hayabuchi shows an eight speed planetary transmission wherein the torque transmitting elements are engaged in groups of two, and wherein an input shaft 11 is continuously connected with a member C1 of a first planetary gear set, and an output shaft 19 is continuously connected to a member R2 of a third planetary gear set, but only has six torque transmitting elements and has a different arrangement for the interconnecting members.

The reference cited by the examiner is deemed pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Miyazaki '173 A1 shows an eight speed planetary transmission wherein the torque transmitting elements are engaged in groups of two, and wherein an input shaft 22 is continuously connected to a member S1 of a first planetary gear set, and an output shaft 24 is continuously connected to a member R2 of a third planetary gear set, but only has six torque transmitting elements and has a different arrangement for the interconnection members.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dirk Wright whose telephone number is 571-272-7098. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dirk Wright
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

DW
Monday, May 09, 2005